

What to do if you find Spanish heath...

- This is a priority noxious weed. Please report sites to the Oregon Department of Agriculture immediately.
- Document sites using landmarks or GPS coordinates for further investigation.
- Do not use Spanish heath for ornamental plantings.
- Prevent spread by cleaning equipment when leaving infested areas.

Stop Spanish heath spread in Oregon!

**Report suspect
sites to**

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program
503-986-4621
or call

1-866-INVADER



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

Plant Protection & Conservation Programs
Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program
635 Capitol St. NE
Salem OR 97301-2532

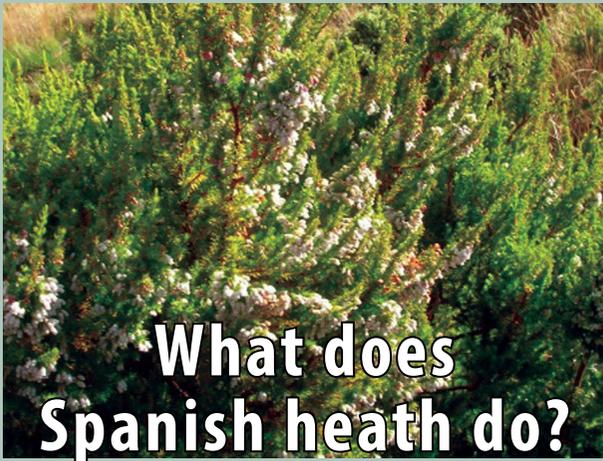
Spanish heath
Erica lusitanica

**BEAUTIFUL
INVADER!**

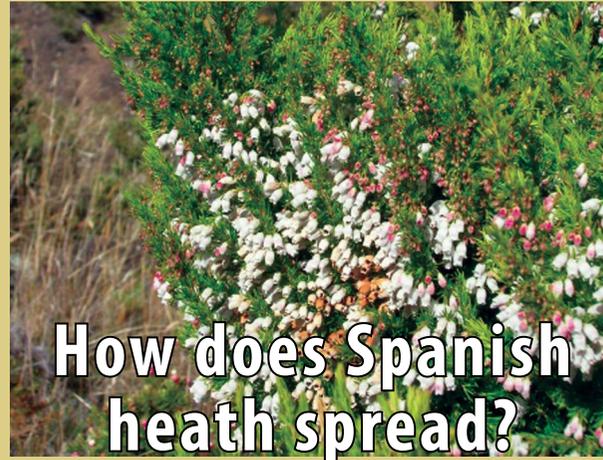




Spanish heath is a perennial evergreen shrub of the heather family, native to Mediterranean Europe. Introduced as an ornamental to many parts of the world, Spanish heath is prone to escape from gardens and can be invasive. It has naturalized in California and is now expanding in Oregon. It is found in southwest Oregon at a few sites in Coos and Curry counties.



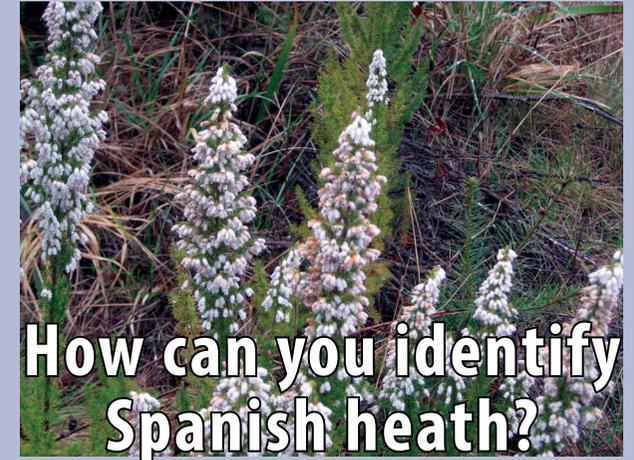
Spanish heath is well adapted to moist, acidic soils and has potential to infest coastal shrub and forest habitats in the Pacific Northwest. This large prolific shrub establishes dense stands in pasture and open areas and invades natural areas, restricting native habitat. Heavy stands limit access and interfere with the establishment of trees, potentially impacting forestry and restoration projects.



Spanish heath reproduces from seed. Flowers produce a small capsule that contains hundreds of very fine dust-like seed each plant produces millions of seeds. The small light seed clings to fur and clothing or is blown by wind for distant dispersal. Mud containing seeds can move Spanish heath to new locations and the light seeds float and are dispersed by water.



- Widely distributed
- Limited distribution
- Not known to occur



Spanish heath is an upright woody perennial evergreen shrub, growing to 10 feet tall. Also referred to as tree heaths because of the size. Foliage is light green, leaves are small and needle shaped and arranged in whorls of three or four on the stem. The blossoms are a showy mass of small bell shaped pink or white flowers, blooming from December through April. It grows best in most soils and prefers acidic conditions. Established plants are drought tolerant.



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program
www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds
Photo credits: Ken French, ODA;
Forest and Kim Starr.
Contact 1-866-invader for more information
5/2017